

refusal to participate in the Medicaid expansion created by the Affordable Care act puts the poor residents in my state in Jeopardy.

So the 56th anniversary of Medicaid is bittersweet for Texans because while we celebrate a program that has saved lives, helped people live longer, expanded care to marginalized communities, and reduced disparities in access to healthcare, thousands of low income Texans still do not have the peace of mind that comes with access to affordable, quality health care enjoyed by low-income residents of states that have expanded their Medicaid program with funds made possible by the Affordable Care Act.

In the 18th Congressional District of Texas there are 195,400 persons with Medicaid and 74,704 with medical care provided by Medicare.

Madam Speaker, my constituents favor the Affordable Care Act because they understand the insecurity and feeling of helplessness of being uninsured or underinsured.

Like Medicare and Medicaid, the Affordable Care Act, or "Obamacare," was vehemently opposed and derided by its adversaries, who said it was too costly, would not work, was unnecessary, or would change the character of America for the worse.

Like the critics of Social Security, Medicare, and the G.I. Bill, all of whom are silent now, they are wrong.

The Affordable Care Act has been an unqualified success.

This historic legislation has extended affordable health coverage to tens of millions of Americans and has helped to bring peace of mind to many of those for whom relief seemed far out of reach.

The Affordable Care Act was driven by a simple premise: that citizens of the most prosperous nation on earth should not be forced to choose between their health and their financial security.

Since the passage of the ACA in 2010, the number of uninsured, Americans has fallen by nearly one-third, or roughly 16 million people.

These Americans come from all walks of life.

They are women, who can no longer be denied coverage or be forced to pay exorbitant amounts for coverage simply because of their sex.

They are nine million seniors and persons with disabilities, who have saved an average of \$1,600 on expensive and lifesaving prescription medication.

And they are this country's most at risk citizens; people who are working hard and struggling make ends meet while living in near-poverty, and who have been covered by Medicaid expansion in 32 states and the District of Columbia.

These benefits have been felt across the country, especially in my home state of Texas:

1. 10. 7 million individuals with pre-existing conditions such as asthma, cancer, or diabetes—including up to 1,632,000 children—no longer have to worry about being denied coverage or charged higher prices because of their health status or history;

2. 4.9 million uninsured Texans have new health insurance options through Medicaid or private health plans in the ACA Marketplace; and

3. 5.2 million persons on private insurance have gained coverage for at least one free preventive health care service such as a

mammogram, birth control, or an immunization in 2011 and 2012.

In addition to the tangible healthcare benefits for millions of families, the ACA has had powerful effects on the financial state of our nation.

Since the passage of the Affordable Care Act, we have extended the solvency of the Medicare Trust fund by more than a decade and helped save taxpayers \$116 billion through new Medicare efficiencies.

The Department of Health and Human Services has estimated that hospitals saved more than \$5.7 billion in costs that would have normally gone unpaid by patients without insurance.

Contrary to the claims of the ACA's critics, private insurance companies have leaped at the opportunity to compete for business among the newly insured, and the healthcare industry has boomed.

Through all of these successes, however, House Republicans remained obsessed with destroying this law, and unraveling the security it provides to millions of Americans.

Medicare and Medicaid also continue to drive innovation and set the standard for coverage, quality, and innovation in American healthcare.

Madam Speaker, Medicare and Medicaid continue to play crucial roles in providing equitable and affordable healthcare, leading innovation in payment and delivery reform, carrying out outreach to the most vulnerable communities, and reshaping the delivery of care for the future.

Because of these programs, more Americans have access to affordable, equitable health care today than at any point in our history.

And I am committed to making sure that number will continue to grow.

On this 56th anniversary of Medicare and Medicaid, we should remember that a healthy America is a prosperous America.

And as we look ahead to the next half century, we can celebrate that what was put in place in 1965 has given us the foundation for a healthy and prosperous future for all Americans.

IN RECOGNITION OF ASHLEE WARD ON HER INDUCTION INTO THE LUZERNE COUNTY SPORTS HALL OF FAME

HON. MATT CARTWRIGHT

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 30, 2021

Mr. CARTWRIGHT. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor former athlete, coach, and Northeastern Pennsylvania native Ashlee Ward. Ashlee will be inducted into the Luzerne County Sports Hall of Fame in 2021 for her distinct athletic achievements in the sport of track and field. She and her fellow inductees will be honored at a reception on August 8, 2021.

Each year, the Luzerne County Sports Hall of Fame honors those who have brought fame and recognition to the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania through their outstanding achievements and contributions in athletic endeavors.

At Meyers High School, Ashlee was a star member of the track and field team. She held

the records in high jump and discus. At the PIAA District 2 Championship in 2007, she was the high jump champion and placed fourth in discus. She went on to take eighth place in high jump at the PIAA State Championship. The following year, Ashlee again came out on top to take first place in high jump at the District 2 Championship, as well as second place in discus. She was sixth in the state for the high jump. In 2009, she placed second in high jump and third in discus at the District Championships and ninth in the state for high jump. Her senior year, she was crowned the District 2 Champion in both discus and high jump, and she was second in the state for high jump and fourth in discus.

While at Misericordia University, she held the school records in high jump and discus as well as the Middle Atlantic Conference indoor and outdoor high jump records. Her freshman year, at the MAC Indoor Championships, she was runner-up in high jump, and at the MAC Outdoor Championship, she was named Field Athlete of the Year and Champion in high jump and discus. At the NCAA Outdoor qualifier, she was 12th in high jump; at the Eastern College Athletic Conference Indoor Championship, she placed sixth in the high jump; and at the Outdoor Championship, she earned A11-ECAC outdoor honors after placing fifth in the high jump, as well as 11th in discus.

Her sophomore year, she was named the MAC Outdoor Champion in high jump and discus as well as the MAC Indoor Runner Up in high jump. She also participated in the Indoor and Outdoor ECAC Championships and the NCAA District III Outdoor Championships. As a junior, she continued to dominate the MAC as the Indoor Champion in high jump and the Outdoor Champion in high jump and discus. She also placed in the top five at both the indoor and outdoor ECAC Championships in high jump.

Ashlee had an incredibly successful senior season. She was the MAC Indoor High Jump Champion as well as the MAC Outdoor High Jump Champion and runner up in discus. She went on to compete at the ECAC Outdoor Championships, winning the gold in high jump and placing seventh in discus. She triumphed at the NCAA Division III Indoor and Outdoor Championships, placing first in high jump at both contests. For her efforts, she was named the NCAA Division III Outdoor Track and Field Women's Athlete of the Year for the Mideast Region.

It is an honor to recognize Ashlee on her induction into the Luzerne County Sports Hall of Fame. May her story and athletic career serve as an inspiration to the next generation of Pennsylvania athletes striving for excellence.

CELEBRATING THE LIFE OF WILLIAM "BILL" ZAMMER

HON. WILLIAM R. KEATING

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 30, 2021

Mr. KEATING. Madam Speaker, I rise today in recognition of the life of William "Bill" Zammer, an entrepreneur and devoted philanthropist on Cape Cod.

A native of Norristown, Pennsylvania, Bill was widely known throughout his adopted home of Cape Cod as a leader in the hospitality industry. He was equally known for his